

TELECON

Jack Valenti

10/15/71 9:05 a.m.

V: Henry, two things, one very frivolous. One of the reasons why I love you is that you and I have the same instincts, and same yearnings . . .

K: You are a great fellow, but you don't have my naivete' to talk to Maxine Cheshire.

V: That's one of the things I learned in three years there. Give her one of your Kissinger quips, but don't say a god-damned word.

K: I wrote the story for her!

V: I always tell people, look, this is a single man and an attractive man, and if I were in his shoes I would be doing the same thing only maybe a little worse.

Henry, I know you are going to Peking. During the Venice Film Festival someone from Peking accosted my man there and said there would be some interest in having me come there. I am willing to take some movie stars and all that and go to Peking if they will take American film. I just wanted you to know that they have broached this to us. I would do it if there was any chance of their being interested in American films.

K: Well, I'll tell you. I have a number of individual requests like this. There won't be a formula opportunity to raise it. I don't know about this time -- the last time I was there, there were no strictly social occasions. But if there is one this time I will mention it.

V: You know, film is something above and beyond the normal thing -- it is a common link between people. If there is an interest, I would put something together. I don't want to do it as a PR trip unless they want to talk about American films.

K: If there is any opportunity at all . . . I have a file of a few key things like this. At a minimum I will ask Chou into what channels we should put such requests.

V: Good. Mine is not so much a request as a follow-on.

K: Could you give me the name and the circumstances under which this was raised?

V: Sure. I'll bring a little memorandum over by hand to your office today.

K: Good, look in on your bleeding friend.

V: I'll have it brought over. I tell you what compassion I feel for you.

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K: I'm just very lucky I don't have LBJ as my President.

V: If I were a bachelor in his Administration and had done this he would have dropped me off the banks of the Perdernales. You are lucky to have such an understanding Chief.

K: LBJ would probably have done the same himself, but he wouldn't have let you.

V: Exactly.